

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed February 23, 2005. Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been canceled and claims 48-51 have been added herein. Support for amendments and newly added claims can be found, for example, in the specification on page 9, line 17 through page 10, line 8. Upon entry of this response, claims 22-32, 34, and 41-51 remain pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, pending claims 1, 3, and 4 have been preliminarily rejected for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The Applicant has abandoned these claims without prejudice, rendering the anticipation rejection moot. Consideration and allowance of the subject application and presently pending claims 22-32, 34, and 41-51 is respectfully requested.

I. Newly Added Claims

Claims 48-51 have been added to better define the Applicant's invention. The Applicant believes newly added claims 48-51 are patentable over the cited references.

A. Claims 48-51

The Applicant respectfully submits that since claims 48-51 depend on independent claim 44, claims 48-51 contain all limitations of independent claim 44. Since independent claim 44 has been allowed, pending dependent claims 48-51 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1608 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

II. Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

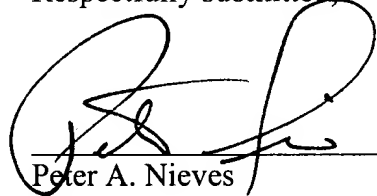
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and rejections have been traversed, rendered moot and/or accommodated, and that presently pending claims 22-32, 34, and 41-51 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and the presently pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-1400.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 11, 2005 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

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